

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

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FM AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3474

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL CALGARY

AMCONSUL TORONTO

UNCLAS VANCOUVER 0432

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ENRG, ELAB, CA

SUBJECT: ENERGY: LABOR GROUP DEMANDS BOYCOTT OF KITIMAT OIL
PIPELINE PROJECT

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT PRINCE RUPERT LABOR COUNCIL HAS
"DEMANDED" THAT B.C. FEDERATION OF LABOR ISSUE A "HOT
DECLARATION" COVERING ALL CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS FOR THE PRO-
POSED KITIMAT PIPELINE AND OIL PORT AND URGE THAT ALL FEDERA-
TION AFFILIATES WITHHOLD THEIR LABOR FROM PROJECT CONSTRUCTION.
WHILE THE PRINCE RUPERT COUNCIL REPRESENTS TWO OF FIVE UNIONS
THAT WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE KITIMAT PROJECT, THE MAJORITY
OF THE COUNCIL'S MEMBERS ARE REPORTEDLY INVOLVED IN THE
FISHING INDUSTRY.

2. THE FEDERATION IS EXPECTED TO CONSIDER THE COUNCIL REQUEST
SHORTLY AND THERE ARE LIKELY TO BE FIREWORKS EVEN THOUGH THE
FEDERATION'S POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE
HAS ALREADY TAKEN A POSITION AGAINST THE KITIMAT PROPOSAL.
SPECIFICALLY, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF OPERATING ENGINEERS, A FEDERATION AFFILIATE, HAS REPORTEDLY
DENOUNCED THE PRINCE RUPERT COUNCIL POSITION IN VIEW OF HIGH
UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG B.C. PIPELINERS AND CONSTRUCTION WORKERS.
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EM IN ITS MAY 12 EDITORIAL, THE PROVINCE STATES FLATLY THAT THE
PROPOSED "HOT DECLARATION" IS "THE MOST FLAGRANT ABUSE OF THE
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS ACCORDED BY SOCIETY TO THE LABOR
MOVEMENT" AND ALLOWS VESTED INTERESTS (LABOR) TO TAKE THE LAW
INTO THEIR OWN HANDS.

4. COMMENT: THE "HOT DECLARATION" IS CONSIDERED BY THE B.C.
FEDERATION OF LABOR AS AN "ULTIMATE" POLICY WEAPON AND HAS
BEEN USED FROM TIME TO TIME IN BRITISH COLUMBIA AGAINST
COMPANIES AND THEIR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES. THE MOST RECENT
AND WELL-PUBLICIZED "HOT DECLARATION" WAS AGAINST SEAGRAMS
WHICH ULTIMATELY FORCED THAT COMPANY OUT OF BUSINESS IN
B.C.
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